

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected in view of the cited Yamashita patent. By this response, however, the four claims remaining in the application including the sole independent Claim 1, have been amended to stress the patentable distinction of the present invention as compared to the Yamashita patent.

Specifically, the original feeding unit includes a cover for the reading means for the upper face of the original, and that cover has two portions disposed, respectively, at two levels. The portion located over the light source is higher than the portion over the reading member. As explained in the specification this structure provides an advantage of protecting the reading member from heat damage.

This structure is not disclosed in the cited Yamashita patent. Instead, that patent discloses a flat top plate 38 of a unit frame 37, but does not disclose the feature of the invention which requires "a first portion of said cover being disposed over said reading member and a second portion of said cover being disposed over said light source at a level higher than said first portion thereof."

For these various reasons it is believed that the remaining claims are all allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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